Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14268 031707Z ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 CTME-00 L-03 ICA-11 AID-05 NSC-05 SS-15 CEA-01 H-01 /103 W -------077722 040911Z /15

R 031643Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4667
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL TURIN POUCH
AMUSMISSION GENEVA 1458

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USEEC

USMTN

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, EIND, SOPN, IT

SUBJECT: MTN- ITALIAN REACTION TO US TARIFF OFFER ON TEXTILES

1. AMCONSUL TURIN RECENTLY MET WITH LEADING ITALIAN TEXTILE MANFACTURERES IN THE PIEDMONT AREA (REPORT FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL). ITALIANS STRONGLY CRITICIZED US MTN COUNTERPROPOSAL TO LOWER US TEXTILE TARIFFS FROM AN AVERAGE 44 PERCENT TO 41.4 PERCENT (EC PROPOSAL WAS TO LOWER US TEXTILE TARIFFS TO AN AVERAGE LEVEL OF 4 PERCENT). GIUSEPPE BOTTO-POALAO, PRESIDENT OF ITALIAN WOOL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN OF ITALIAN DELEGATION WORKING ON WOLLEN TEXTILES FOR MTN, ASSERTED THAT US OFFER PRESENTED A SERIOUS STUMBLING BLOCK IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ROME 14268 031707Z

AND THAT GOI WOULD LIKELY APPROACH EMBASSY ON ISSUE IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO NOTED THE HIGHT PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN PUSHING FOR MAINTENANCE OF US TARIFF RESTRICTIONS. AMEMBASSY ROME HAS ALSO BEEN APPROACHED RECENTLY BY TEXTILE MANFACTURERS IN PRATO (FLORENCE) WHO RAISED SIMILAR OBJECTIONS TO US TARIFF POLICY WITH REGARD TO TEXTILE PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY

WOLLEN PRODUCTS.

2. ACTION REQUESTED. IN ACCORD WITH AMCONSUL TURIN'S REQUESTS (SEPTEL), EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION OF US MTN POSITION ON TARIFF REDUCTIONS IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR AND ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION WHICH WE MAY USE TO EXPLAIN U.S. VIEWS ON SUBJECT.HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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